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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON [redacted] 7229

REF: SAIGON 05928

SUB: LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES: QUANG DUC

1. FIVE OF THE EIGHT CANDIDATES WHO FILED IN THE RACE FOR QUANG DUC'S SINGLE LOWER HOUSE SEAT WERE REJECTED BY THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION COUNCIL. THREE OF THESE FIVE ARE APPEALING THE COUNCIL'S RULING. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON THE THREE REMAINING CANDIDATES FOLLOWS:
A. NGUYEN TAN HUE. 4 JUNE 1923, QUANG NGAI, NOMINAL

(1)

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BUDDHIST. GRADUATE OF HIGH SCHOOL IN QUI NHON, BINH DINH IN 1944; THEREAFTER FOUGHT WITH VIET MINH FOR SEVERAL YEARS FORMERLY SERVED AS REPORTER FOR SEVERAL SAIGON AND HUE NEWSPAPERS; 1965 WAS DEPUTY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

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OF MICH IN I CORPS; 1966 ASSIGNED TO QUANG DUC AS CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE; SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL IN QUANG DUC HUE BECAME CHEF DE CABINET TO PROVINCE CHIEF.
B. BGUYEN PHI THANH. 20 DECEMBER 1931, QUANG NAM, REPORTEDLY CATHOLIC. ARVN CAPTAIN; 1963-5 CHIEF OF KIEN DUC DISTRICT, QUANG DUC; 1966 CHIEF OF DUC LAP DISTRICT, QUANG DUC; 1967 REPORTEDLY ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF OF DARLAC PROVINCE.
C. PHAM VAN LAH. 5 MAY 1926, KIEN AN, CATHOLIC. 1959-63, SERVICE SHIEF IN QUANG DUC; 1963 TO PRESENT, FUNCTIONARY OF MICH IN SAIGON.

2. THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES WERE REJECTED:
A. HO QUANG THANH. 4 AUGUST 1929, QUANG NGAI, NOMINAL BUDDHIST. SINCE 1963 HAS SERVED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF VIS IN KHIEM DUC DISTRICT, QUANG DUC.

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B. TRAN THANH DINH. 1 JUNE 1930, NAM DINH, CATHOLIC. SINCE 1954 HAS BEEN VIS CHIEF IN QUANG DUC; REPORTEDLY SENT TO QUANG DUC ON DISCIPLINARY TRANSFER; HAS REPUTATION AS CORRUPT FUNCTIONARY AND COMPULSIVE GAMBLER, USUALLY POKER.
C
VONG TAT GI. 15 DECEMBER 1914, HAI NINH, ANCESTOR WORSHIPER. A NORTHER MONTAGNARD REFUGEE OF NUNG TRIBE; ARVN LIEUTANANT; DEPUTY CHIEF OF KIEN DUC DISTRICT, QUANG DUC.
C. VUONG SON THONG. 15 DECEMBER 1933, THAI BINH, CATHOLIC. PHOTOGRAPHER IN GIA NGHIA, THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL; RUNNER-UP IN 1966 CONSTITUENT ASEMBLY ELECTIONS IN QUANG DUC; ALTERNATE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE NGUYEN VAN THIEU; CONSIDERED BY MANY LOCAL OBSERVER AS AN UNRELIABLE AND SHADY BUSINESSMAN.
E. NGUYEN VAN KIEN. 28 JUNE 1926, HA TINH. TEACHER IN SAIGON.

3. VONG TAT GI WAS REJECTED BECAUSE AS A NUNG HE IS

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ELIGIBLE ONLY FOR THE TWO SEATS RESERVED FOR NORTHERN MONTAGNARD REFUGEES. HE OTHER FOUR CANDIDATES WERE DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE THEIR DOSSIERS WERE INCOMPLETE. HO QUANG THANHB TRAN THANH DINH AND VUONG SON THONG ARE APPEALING THE PROVINCIAL ELECHMON COUNDIL'S RULING.

WNM QUANG DUC'S CJF DEPUTY NGUYEN DINH THUAT DID NOT FILE. SINCE HIS ELECTION A YEAR AGO, THUAT HAS RETURNED TO QUANG DUC ONLY ONCE. HTESE FEW LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO ARE AWARE OF THE COMING LOWER HOUSE ELECTION SEEM DETERMINED TO CHOOSE SOMEONE WHO WILL BE MORE LOYAL TO HIS CONSTITUENTS AND TO THE INTERESTS OF QUANG DUC. UNFORTUNATELY, MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS ADMIT THAT NONE OF THE CANDIDATES CLEARLY MEETS THIS CRITERION. BUNKER

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